



The Corps Engages: Kuwait Emergency Recovery

TWELVE years ago, Feb. 28 marked the cease-fire ending military operations of the U.S.-led coalition in the Persian Gulf. In the immediate aftermath of the conflict, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' mission changed from military operation support to returning a crippled nation to its feet.

The Department of Defense created the Kuwait Emergency Recovery Office and authorized the Corps to assist the Kuwaitis in restoring public utilities, and defense and internal-security systems.

The KERO's damage-assessment teams began operating within 72 hours after hostilities ended. Engineers restored power to such critical Kuwaiti facilities as hospitals, telecommunication centers and

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Office of History.



An engineer officer and a Kuwaiti volunteer assess damage to power lines near the nation's capital.



financial institutions.

By March 23 the KERO's electrical crews had restored primary power throughout Kuwait's capital. Corps-hired contractors eventually repaired 10,000 kilometers of transmission lines and 29 electrical stations. The KERO also supervised the repair of main water-supply lines and sewage-treatment facilities.

The Corps' most significant challenge was rebuilding and repairing Kuwait's heavily damaged roadways. The Corps filled in hundreds of bomb craters, removed 3,700 barriers emplaced by Iraqi troops and repaired more than 200 kilometers of road. □

Contractors repair one of Kuwait's many bomb-damaged roads.